

CLAIMS:

1. A retractable seat, comprising:
 - a seat cushion;
 - a seat back rotatably supported on the seat cushion;
 - a link mechanism for supporting the seat cushion on a floor, the link mechanism including a front leg and a rear leg that are pivotally connected to the seat cushion and the floor, so that the seat can be switched between a use condition and a retracted condition; and
 - a restraint mechanism provided on the floor for preventing the link mechanism from moving when the seat is in a use condition.
2. A retractable seat as defined in claim 1, wherein the link mechanism is arranged and constructed to move in forward and rearward directions of the seat, and wherein the seat is switched to the retracted condition when the link mechanism is moved rearwardly.
3. A retractable seat as defined in claim 1, wherein the restraint mechanism comprises a support mechanism for supporting one of the front and rear legs on the floor when the seat is in the use condition, and wherein the support mechanism, the leg supported by the support mechanism, and the floor substantially form a triangle.
4. A retractable seat as defined in claim 3, wherein the support mechanism comprises a support member that is separated from the leg to be supported thereby.
5. A retractable seat as defined in claim 4, wherein the support member supports the rear leg.
6. A retractable seat as defined in claim 5, wherein one end of the support member is pivotally connected to the seat cushion via an axis common to the rear leg, and wherein the other end of the support member is separably positioned on the floor in front of the rear leg.
7. A retractable seat as defined in claim 5, wherein the support member is connected to the front leg by an operating link, so as to synchronously move therewith.
8. A retractable seat as defined in claim 5, wherein one end of the support member is

supported by a support portion that is provided adjacent to an upper end portion of the rear leg, and wherein the other end of the support member is rotatably connected to the floor in front of the rear leg.

9. A retractable seat as defined in claim 5, wherein the support member is connected to the rear leg by an operating link, so as to synchronously move therewith.

10. A retractable seat as defined in claim 5, wherein one end of the support member is pivotally connected to the seat cushion via an axis common to the rear leg, and wherein the other end of the support member is slidably connected to the floor in front of the rear leg, so as to move in forward and rearward directions of the seat.

11. A retractable seat as defined in claim 10 further comprising a guide mechanism provided on the floor and a lock mechanism disposed on the guide mechanism, wherein the other end of the support member is slidably connected to the floor by means of a guide mechanism, and wherein the lock mechanism is arranged and constructed to lock the other end of the support member when the seat is in the use condition.

12. A retractable seat as defined in claim 3, wherein the support mechanism comprises a support member that is integrated with the leg to be supported thereby.

13. A retractable seat as defined in claim 4 further comprising a lock mechanism provided on the leg to be supported by the support member, and wherein one end of the support member is connected to the lock mechanism, so as to be locked when the seat is in the use condition, and wherein the other end of the support member is rotatably connected to the floor.

14. A retractable seat as defined in claim 13, wherein the lock mechanism provided on the leg to be supported by the support member is unlocked when the seat is changed from the use condition to the retracted condition, so that the support member can move relative to the leg in synchronism with an operation of the link mechanism.

15. A retractable seat as defined in claim 14, wherein the support member is positioned

behind the leg to be supported thereby when the seat is in the use condition.

16. A retractable seat as defined in claim 1, wherein the floor is formed with a receiving recess for receiving the seat, and wherein the link mechanism including the front leg and the rear leg is arranged and constructed to fold down backwardly and be received within the receiving recess when the seat is changed to the retracted condition.

17. A retractable seat as defined in claim 1, wherein the seat comprises a rear seat.

18. A retractable seat, comprising:

a seat cushion;

a seat back rotatably supported on the seat cushion;

a link mechanism for supporting the seat cushion on a floor, the link mechanism including a front leg and a rear leg that are pivotally connected to the seat cushion and the floor, so that the seat can be switched between a use condition and a retracted condition; and

a drive mechanism for moving the front and the rear leg, the drive mechanism including a reciprocable operating member, and a first connection member that interconnects one of the front and the rear leg and the reciprocable operating member.

19. A retractable seat, comprising:

a seat cushion;

a seat back rotatably supported on the seat cushion;

a link mechanism for supporting the seat cushion on a floor, the link mechanism including a front leg and a rear leg that are pivotally connected to the seat cushion and the floor, so that the seat can be switched between a use condition and a retracted condition; and

a drive mechanism for moving the front and rear leg, the drive mechanism including a reciprocable operating member, a first connection member that interconnects the front leg and the reciprocable operating member, and a second connection member that interconnects the reciprocable operating member and the front leg, wherein the front leg and the first and second connection members form a three joint link when the seat is in the use condition.

20. A retractable seat as defined in claim 19, wherein the seat comprises a rear seat.

21. A retractable seat, comprising:
a seat cushion;
a seat back rotatably supported on the seat cushion;
a link mechanism for supporting the seat cushion on a floor, the link mechanism including a front leg and a rear leg that are pivotally connected to the seat cushion and the floor, so that the seat can be switched between a use condition and a retracted condition;
a support member for supporting one of the front and rear legs on the floor when the seat is in the use condition, the support member being separated from the leg to be supported thereby;
a guide mechanism provided on the floor; and
a lock mechanism provided on the guide mechanism,
wherein one end of the support member is pivotally connected to the seat cushion via an axis common to the leg,
wherein the other end of the support member is slidably connected to the guide mechanism, so as to move in forward and rearward directions of the seat,
wherein the lock mechanism is arranged and constructed to lock the other end of the support member when the seat is in the use condition, and
wherein the support member, the leg supported by the support member and the floor substantially form a triangle.

22. A retractable seat, comprising:
a seat cushion;
a seat back rotatably supported on the seat cushion;
a link mechanism for supporting the seat cushion on a floor, the link mechanism including a front leg and a rear leg that are pivotally connected to the seat cushion and the floor, so that the seat can be switched between a use condition and a retracted condition;
a support member for supporting one of the front and rear legs on the floor when the seat is in the use condition, the support member being separated from the leg to be supported thereby; and
a lock mechanism provided on the leg to be supported by the support member,
wherein one end of the support member is connected to the lock mechanism, so as to be locked when the seat is in the use condition,
wherein the other end of the support member is rotatably connected to the floor,

wherein the lock mechanism is unlocked when the seat back is changed from the use condition to the retracted condition, so that the support member can move relative to the leg in synchronism with an operation of the link mechanism, and

wherein the support member, the leg supported by the support member and the floor substantially form a triangle.

23. A retractable seat as defined in claim 22, wherein the seat comprises a rear seat.